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PROGRAM Morning with Charles Kuralt and Diane Sawyer STATION WDVM TV
CBS Network

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SUBJECT Scientific Contact Between East and West

CHARLES KURALT: One consequence of President Reagan's sanctions against the Soviet Union has been a reduction in scientific contact between experts of East and West. There have been several cases of American universities being ordered to shut their doors in the faces of Soviet visitors.

This policy has provoked a heated debate. Barry Peterson reports.

BARRY PETERSON: In this research laboratory at Stanford University, a mechanical arm performs rudimentary functions, part of a growing body of knowledge about robots and their uses.

Nikolay Umnov, a Soviet specialist in robotics and walking machines planned to visit Stanford but the State Department slapped restrictions on his tour. No access to programming techniques. No access to any projects funded by the Defense Department. No access to private industry. In a huff, Stanford cancelled the Russian's visit.

DAVID KENNEDY, PRESIDENT, STANFORD UNIVERSITY: We would have had to guarantee that a Soviet scientist wouldn't have access to conversations with industry people. Well, we're not going to follow him around the streets after he's finished his visit here to make sure that he doesn't run into somebody from industry. We can't do that.

PETERSON: Stanford officials say the issue here runs to the very heart of academic freedom. The traditional free and lively exchange of information and ideas.